

**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

**WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION  
SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
Building B-1 Auditorium, SFWMD,  
3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, Florida  
Thursday, January 5, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.**

Attending - Members

Mike Bauer  
Bevin Beaudet  
Scott Benyon  
Doug Bournique  
Susan Brookman  
Al Calloway  
Walter Carson  
Michael Collins, Chair

Joan Davis  
Dennis Duke  
Beverly Grady  
Jim Harvey  
Patrick Hayes  
Tom Jones  
Thomas Kenny  
John Lamkin

Barbara Miedema  
Terrence "Rock" Salt  
Judy Sanchez  
Kim Shugar  
Ray Scott  
Ray Smith  
Malcolm "Bubba" Wade  
Howard Wegis

WRAC Alternates:

John Adornato  
Thomas Bausch  
Harry Cronin

Gene Duncan  
Jaime Furgang  
Carolyn Kennedy

Joan Lawrence  
Terry Manning  
Patti Webster

Call to Order. Chair Collins called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. He welcomed everyone and provided information on the agenda.

*Section 120.525, Florida Statutes, allows the District to change the published agenda for good cause shown. Based upon that authority, the Chair of the Water Resources Advisory Commission of the South Florida Water Management District determines that good cause exists to make the following changes.*

Item 3 (D) – Changes in presenter. LeRoy Rodgers will be the presenter. Susan Sylvester will be a presenter. Reverse the order of Items 6 and 7.

1. Welcome and Introductions by Michael Collins, Chair

2. Member Issues – Michael Collins

Ray Scott: He provided information on the issue of the 1501 process and inquired about how it is going to work on Acceler8 and the appropriate place for issues on 1501. He stated that the process needs to be defined.

Chair Collins provided information on project delivery teams and the current process. He said there would not be a problem in re-doing the process and he provided his support.

Mr. Scott continued with information on the PDT process and said this relates to the same issue. Issue identification was discussed. Chair Collins said this can be fixed easily and a semi-formal agreement can be reached. Dennis Duke, USACOE, provided information on this matter and said it would be brought up at the Working Group meeting on January 19. Chair Collins said he understands the concern, but it will be a process that is suitable to all involved.

Mr. Scott spoke on the Stormwater Management Issues Workshop meeting scheduled on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January and that will be reset. Mr. Scott spoke on the Energy Summit commissioned by the Governor and the FDACS Commissioner has put together a working group. Wastewater residuals technology will be an important issue that will be an excellent idea to pursue. Mr. Scott provided information on the Rural Land Stewardship Program. Development in the Okeechobee Watershed is an important matter to be reviewed by the WRAC. People need to get together and work on these important issues. Chair Collins said these matters can be discussed at future WRAC meetings.

Patrick Hayes: This is a new year and a new opportunity and he challenged the group to have a 100 fold increase in environmental improvements. Environmental stewardships are a responsibility of the District. Environmental Resource Permitting, the current water system is outdated, reservations for the natural systems are critical, and other environmental issues.

Dennis Duke: The final GIR report is out for review. He provided an update on USACOE projects that are proceeding. Information on funding was provided and is approximately \$250 million. Site 1 document is out for review and comments are welcome. He continued with updates on projects by the USACOE.

Bevin Beaudet: He congratulated the SFWMD on behalf of the local governments on water supply plans and the C-44 project. The Southeast Florida Water Utility Council submitted a letter and he asked to provide comments on that letter. Alternative water supply contracts were discussed.

Chair Collins commended Mr. Beaudet and other local governments for their support for Senate Bill 444. Planning is needed to determine the water availability and needs. The competing interests of the natural system were discussed, as well as the needs of Palm Beach County and other areas. Issues discussed included the availability of water, review of models, allocation of water from the natural system that has to be made up, careful review of all modeling data, open communication, Miami-Dade County water issues, alternative water supply development, etc.

Patti Webster: On behalf of Broward County, in conjunction with SFWMD, formed an Everglades Working Group to find a solution to C-11 discharges to the Everglades. There has been great participation by all the local governments. Policy makers are coming to the meetings and providing input. She asked to bring this matter to a future WRAC meeting. Chair Collins said this seems to be working and is a good idea.

John Adornato: The ongoing issue of the C-111 Spreader Canal was discussed. He thanked Mr. Collins and the District for making this a part of their plan. All Acceler8 projects, alignment of the spreader canal, and whether Acceler8 dollars can be used for land acquisition.

Chair Collins said that Acceler8 dollars can be used for land acquisition. He provided information on the estimated costs and eminent domain. Restoration of Biscayne and Florida Bay is a very important matter and is being worked on by the SFWMD. The project benefits can be achieved.

Mr. Adornato provided further comment.

Jaime Furgang: She asked for additional information on the boundaries and Chair Collins explained the projects. Mr. Adornato provided further comments.

Ms. Furgang said she has met with staff and discussed the cost of projects. Mr. Duke provided input on the analysis that has been done to date. Chair Collins said the Governing Board will be reviewing the matter. Discussion continued between Ms. Furgang and Chair Collins.

Mr. Hayes: He provided information on water for the natural system, capturing water to tide, etc. Chair Collins reported that he understands the concerns of everyone and solutions will be sought.

Chair Collins: He provided information the development of the WRAC Agendas. He asked for input from the group at the next meeting on what other decisions the SFWMD would like to have brought to their attention. Other issues the WRAC members would like to way-in on.

3. (B) Lake Conditions and Water Quality - Susan Sylvester , Deputy Department Director, Operations Control, Engineering Maintenance & Vegetation Management, SFWMD.

Ms. Sylvester provided information on the Wet and Dry Season of 2005. Data regarding the Lake Okeechobee water conditions was provided.

Question and answer session held on issues regarding the current Regulation Schedule. WRAC members Hayes, Miedema, Duke Beaudet, Kenny all participated in the discussion on water management. Chair Collins said presentation on the Lake Okeechobee matters will be made available to any interested party.

(A) Lake Okeechobee Water Operations and Flows – Cal Neidrauer, Chief Consulting Engineer, Water Control.

Mr. Neidrauer provided historical data on the flows and phosphorus levels to and from Lake Okeechobee. Mr. Hayes provided comments on the construction of releases. Mr. Neidrauer continued his presentation. Information on the Everglades Agricultural Area Flow Patterns was provided.

Question and answer session was held on material presented. Susan Brookman asked for the timeline and Chair Collins and Mr. Neidrauer provided the information.

Mr. Duke asked for clarification on phosphorus loads and Malcolm Wade, Chair Collins, Mr. Neidrauer and Dr. Susan Gray provided data.

Mr. Hayes spoke of the percentages and “volume wise” on the percentages. Run-off coming into Lake Okeechobee was discussed. Mr. Neidrauer, Chair Collins and Mr. Wade gave additional information on figures regarding the amount of run-off into Lake Okeechobee. Mr. Hayes discussed rainfall in the estuaries and Chip Merriam, Deputy Executive Director, Water Resources, provided information on the complexities of rainfall – there is no average.

Beverly Grady said it was a great presentation, but she asked about rainfall to tide and flow to tide and assumptions that were different, and the effect of excess flows to the two estuaries. She followed-up on a previous request for a further breakdown to include volumes and tonnages and “where the water comes from”. Mr. Neidrauer asked for a written list so he would be able to provide a more detailed reply to her questions. He responded to some of the questions from Ms. Grady. Terrence Salt provided additional detail on the current plan and whether there is a need to review all the data and see if an adjustment in the plan is needed. Mr. Wade and Chair Collins spoke on this issue and what needs to be done in the future. Mr. Wade provided information regarding the WRAC Lake Okeechobee Technical Sub-Committee. Chair Collins said education to the local governmental agencies will need to be done. Further information will be provided to Ms. Grady. Aquifer Storage Recovery (ASR) was discussed.

Ms. Furgang asked for information from the presentation on average annual input to the Lake and Mr. Neidrauer provided answers. Mr. Wade and Chair Collins gave further information.

Tom Kenny provided information on percentages and flows. Chair Collins said this is a complicated issue.

Ray Scott requested that the data update be available at the WRAC Lake Okeechobee upcoming meeting on January 25 in Fort Myers. Chair Collins said Mr. Neidrauer would try to have the information available by that meeting.

(C) Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Water Storage – Chip Merriam, Deputy Executive Director, Water Resource Management;

Ms. Grady commented on word “flood” in the agenda and presentation title (Flood the Sugar Cane Farms Now to Save the Estuaries: Is This Feasible?) and Chair Collins provided her information on the wording of future agendas.

Mr. Merriam presented information on this issue.

A question and answer session was held following the presentation.

Ms. Furgang asked for follow-up information on providing water to areas and evaluations and Mr. Merriam provided the needed data. Mr. Wade provided information on STAs. Chair Collins provided information on the financial impacts. Mr. Duke and Ms. Miedema provided information. Ms. Furgang said the presentation had value, but her organization is interested in other issues. Mr. Merriam gave information on rainfall during wet versus dry years and in-ground storage.

Ms. Grady asked for a copy of the study mentioned by Dennis Duke and Chair Collins said there were several studies over many years and it will be sent to Ms. Grady. Ms. Grady asked about the Talisman property of 60,000 acres and Ms. Merriam provided answers to her questions. There is a total of 80,000 acres for water storage. Mr. Wade, Mr. Duke, and Chair Collins gave further detail on water storage and how the analysis was used to determine the current water management plan. Ms. Furgang provided further comment and Chair Collins said this is a 36 year of record and objective reviews of this stuff needs to be done. There is no fundamental difference from 10 years ago. Mr. Duke concurred.

Mr. Hayes asked for a report on the impacts to flooding of the estuaries. Chair Collins said that will be reviewed by staff to see that report could be compiled. Reports have been done on impacts to certain areas.

Ms. Brookman said that in restoration difficult choices must be made. The economic costs to the estuaries are not being factored into the plans. Good management decisions must look at the cost to the public. All the facts need to be made available. Chair Collins said this is difficult, and this has been done in the past and is very difficult to analyze. Economic analysis may not be as useful as other options.

Judy Sanchez spoke of the acres and wet seasons. Flooding impacts and water storage were discussed. Chair Collins provided information on “mother nature” and the impacts.

Scott Benyon spoke of a paradigm shift and the need to store water. Storage doesn't tell us that we need to get rid of the water, only that the stored water needs to go somewhere in a quantity greater than we actually want. Cleaning and releasing is about as good as you can get on this, except for Aquifer Water Storage.

Eugene Duncan spoke on background restoration efforts and the cleanup efforts. Acceler8, water availability, phosphorus loads, treatment of excess water, and the depth

of the water storage areas were discussed. Chair Collins commented on water management matters. Mr. Duncan spoke of treatment of water and the need to identify lands for storage and the “depth” of water storage areas. Mr. Wade provided comment on reservoir capacity and discharges to estuaries.

#### 4. Lake Okeechobee & Estuary Recovery (LOER) Briefing – Susan Gray

Dr. Gray presented information on this issue. Subjects covered included Lake Okeechobee and Estuary Recovery, LOER components and District Lead Responsibilities, Fast Track Projects, Permanent Forward Pumps for Water Supply During Droughts, Revised Regulation Schedule and ERP Criteria, Alternative Storage/Disposal of Excess Surface Water, Water Storage Assessments: Study Areas and Deep Well Injection and ASR, Continued Implementation of the LOPP and CERP LOWP, TMDLs for Tributaries, Mandatory Fertilizer BMPs, Innovative Land Use Planning, Eliminate Land Applications of Residuals, and Opportunities for Local Government Participation.

Question and answer session was held on the presentation.

Ms. Furgang said this was a good presentation. Forward / back pumping and the timeline were discussed. Dr. Gray provided information on the pumping as a realistic schedule. Ms. Furgang would like to see a copy of the analysis.

Ms. Scott spoke of the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project and that he has heard that the alternatives will not reach the specified goals regarding phosphorus reduction. He asked for more information on this matter. Dr. Gray stated she has met with David Unsell, Project Manager, on she provided information on load reductions and there is a range of options that are being reviewed. Rick Smith said this will be on the Agenda for the next WRAC Lake Okeechobee Committee meeting.

Mr. Duncan spoke of land acquisition for residuals and runoffs by farms. He asked if there was data available to see who is doing the polluting and how much sludge is being sent to the Everglades. Chair Collins said the plan is to eliminate it 100%. Dr. Gray said the information is available from the Department of Environmental Protection. A long term plan must be instituted. Chair Collins provided input. Mr. Duncan asked if legislation is required and Dr. Gray provided information.

Kim Shugar, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, provided information on the legislative changes needed for land acquisition for residuals. A draft of the proposed legislation will be available this summer. Mr. Duncan again asked for a list of the polluters.

Ray Smith spoke of sludge reduction and disposal. This is a land application issue and if it is improperly applied that should be investigated.

Mr. Kenny asked about the 16-county area and asked if this issue covered all 16 counties. Chair Collins provided information.

Ms. Brookman asked about revising the criteria in the Caloosahatchee estuary or basin and she asked that clarification be made that it does include the entire basin. Dr. Gray will do that.

Ray Smith provided information on runoff and asked about animal run-off included in reports on BMPs. Water retention and water management were discussed by Mr. Smith, Dr. Gray and Chair Collins.

Mr. Scott added information on the FDACS cow and calf BMPs issue.

(D) S-12 Water Control Structures Maintenance Project Status – LeRoy Rodgers, Sr. Environmental Analyst, Operations & Control.

Mr. Rodgers presented information on this issue. The S-12D Flow-Way Maintenance Pilot Project was reviewed. The S-12 system delivers flows from Water Conservation Area 3A to the Everglades National Park.

Announcement:

Chair Collins said a copy of the letter to Richard Pettigrew from Terry Rice, dated March 17, 1997 was distributed and available to any interested party.

Lunch Break – 12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

7. Water Storage (A Lake Okeechobee Everglades Restoration [LOER] Component) – Status Report – Harkley Thornton, Governing Board Member; and Benita Whalen, Director, Okeechobee Service Center.

Ms. Whalen presented information the LOER Initiative of Alternative Storage/Disposal of Excess Surface Water. Subjects covered included the Lake Toho Drawdown; Background Information; Water Storage/Disposal on Public, Private, and Tribal Lands; Water Retention Assessment – North and South Study Areas; Water Storage on Public Lands – Northern Watershed Assessment Results; Water Storage on Public Lands – Southern Watershed Assessment Results; World Wildlife Fund Project Background Information; Examples of On-Ranch WMA; The Fundamental Shift; World Wildlife Fund Initiative; Conservation Innovation Grant: Pilot Projects; Watershed Current Projects; Water Storage/Disposal Projects – Long-Term, Non-CERP Projects and Emergency (temporary, non-CERP) Projects and Interim (CERP) Projects; and the Next Steps.

Question and answer session following presentation by Ms. Whalen.

Mr. Duncan asked about the depth of water in Brighton area. Ms. Whalen spoke of the need to put in levees which would add significantly to the cost. Mr. Merriam provided input on construction of reservoirs. Infrastructure improvements were discussed.

Jim Harvey: He requested the location of the Grassy Island Reservoir and the Pearce Property.

Terrence Salt: The figures for the EAA Reservoir storage.

Howard Wegis: Storage, oxidation, muck soil, and other subjects were questioned. Mr. Merriam provided information.

Mr. Hayes: Requested that cities/counties be listed on Ms. Whalen's matrix. Chair Collins said that information would be provided.

Mr. Salt: He said this is a really great project and he is impressed. Chair Collins thanked Mr. Thornton and Ms. Whalen for their work on this subject. Mr. Thornton provided information on public land storage and why it is being focused on first. Chair Collins said the review of projects is still being done and updates will be provided.

6. Alternative Water Supply and Water Supply Plan Update – Carlyn Kowalsky, Department Director, Water Supply; and John Mulliken, Division Director, Planning.

Mr. Mulliken presented information regarding the status of the Regional Water Supply Plan. The focus was on public drinking water. The status of Senate Bill 444 implementation was explained. There are four planning regions that cover SFWMD. Subjects covered included the Percent of Increase in Population from 2005 – 2025; Population by Region; New Requirements; Why Alternative Water Supplies; FY2006 Alternative Water Supply Funding; Water Supply Plans Seeking Project Proposals; Alternative Water Supply Funding Future Years; Future Projects Proposals Received; Public Water Supply Response; Observations; On-Going Analyses; Key Activities; and Key Milestones.

Ms. Webster provided input on the large number of utility companies that are involved.

Questions and answers following the presentation.

Mr. Scott asked about the proposals submitted. Mr. Mulliken said sufficient planning for specific projects needs to be done. There is a need to expand upon the foundation. Mr. Scott offered his assistance and said this is a statewide problem in dealing with agricultural projects. He appreciates the fact that SFWMD is the only water management district that has funded agricultural projects.

Mr. Wegis asked about the update of plans every five (5) years and Chair Collins provided additional information. Mr. Mulliken gave information on future updates.



Mr. Hayes expressed his appreciation for the update. Alternative water supply, saving of water that is being drained off of agricultural land, land development, etc. Chair Collins said some of the models work and some will not work when you look at agricultural land.

Mr. Harvey asked about the FP&L proposals for existing plants or future. Mr. Mulliken said he believes it is for future plants. Mr. Harvey said there is a need for a water/utility front. Information provided on several issues, including competition in the marketplace was discussed, defining of water/utility firms, local governments comprehensive plans, infrastructures in governmental planning. Site Planning Process tied to the 10 year plan for FP&L? Chair Collins provided information. Ray Smith gave input on the issue. Roundtable discussion on the timelines of plans.

Ms. Brookman spoke on the Alternative Water Supply Plan. A status of the legal aspects of the reservations rule issue. Cecile Ross, Sr. Attorney, SFWMD, provided an update. Input was provided by Mr. Mulliken, Mr. Harvey, and Chair Collins.

Mr. Wegis asked if reservations would be addressed in the Water Supply Plans and the answer was "yes". Chair Collins provided information on reservations from counties in South Florida.

#### 8. Acceler8 Outreach – Alvin Jackson, Outreach Manager, Acceler8.

Mr. Jackson provided a brief overview on the outreach efforts for Acceler8. He thanked staff in the Department of Information, Workforce Alliances, Palm Beach Community College, and several other agencies and individuals.

Subjects presented were Mandated Activities; Objectives; Employment: The Process is Working; Business Involvement; and Business and Employment: Getting the Word Out.

Question and answer session following the presentation.

Al Calloway expressed his appreciation for the presentation and he asked if the District is "... hitting the target needed and is the District going into the communities?". Mr. Jackson provided information. Mr. Calloway asked if an assessment model is available to ensure the goals are being reached. Mr. Jackson said he does have a model and gave information on jobs that have/will be created. Mr. Calloway said he would like to see an economic lift in the disadvantaged communities and provide work in several types of business. Chair Collins said the goals of "growing communities and growing people" are good goals. This is consistent with what has been said by Mr. Calloway. Mr. Jackson reported on the proposed plans in Hendry and Palm Beach counties.

#### Public Comment:

Carolyn Kennedy, WRAC Alternate, Broward County resident. She would like to have Broward County included. Mr. Jackson said it would be in the near future and the timing

of the construction projects will help in determining what opportunities for training there are for members of the community.

Mr. Harvey asked if the classes were taught in the daytime or the nighttime. Mr. Jackson reported on the timelines and training schools. Discussion of Hendry County training facilities, grants, partnerships, financing, and other issues was held by several stakeholders.

7. Florida Bay Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) – Briefing – John Mulliken; and David Rudnick, Sr. Supervising Environmental Scientist, Coastal Ecosystems Division, Water Supply.

Chair Collins provided introductory comments on minimum flows and levels in Florida Bay.

Mr. Mulliken presented information minimum flows and levels in Florida Bay, including the key dates for peer and public review of the science. The Rule Development process was discussed. In February 2006 the

Mr. Harvey made a recommendation to have the WRAC members and Chair to give the recreational issues workshop committee to support recreational opportunities along the way (as in Flamingo). To assist in the effort, he has the support of several organizations, including the Palm Beach County fishing clubs. Mr. Salt offered to have Dan Kimball to come to the WRAC and Recreational Issues Workshop to discuss this issue. Rick Smith will coordinate the groups to meet to discuss this matter.

Mr. Rudnick presented information on the ecological effects of potential minimum flows and levels for Florida Bay (Bay). Most of the Bay is confined in Everglades National Park. The MFL analysis approach was explained. Subjects covered in the presentation included Evaluation Components; Hydrologic Analyses; Correlation of Annual Maximum Salinity with Annual Rainfall and Flow; Fresh Water Flow (1970-2000); Estimated Salinity in Upper Taylor River Pond; Estimated Salinity in Little Madeira Bay; Ecological Analyses; SAV as an Ecological Indicator; Transition Zone SAV Cover and Salinity; Salinity Effects on Ruppia Reproductive Success; Everglades-Florida Bay Gradient: Modeled SAV Response; Higher Trophic Level Evaluation; and Conclusions.

Question and answer session following the presentation.

Ms. Furgang asked about the significant harm in Florida Bay and Mr. Rudnick spoke of the past two years of high salinity and SAV problems. We are trying to protect the resource and do no harm. Ms. Furgang and Mr. Rudnick discussed Florida Bay.

John Lamkin asked questions on reservation of water in Florida Bay and Mr. Rudnick reported on the hydrology and salinity in the area. The biological criteria were discussed. Mr. Mulliken said the minimum flows and levels piece and “initial reservation” and “CERP reservation”. He provided information on the process.

Mr. Carson spoke on salinity in the Shark River Slough and Mr. Rudnick and Mr. Mulliken provided information. Rick Smith commented on this issue. Mr. Duke spoke on the subject of the Northeast Shark River Slough overwash and other areas. Rick Smith said the March 2006 WRAC meeting will be in Miami and a discussion of this issue will be held then. Mr. Harvey said would like this matter on a future agenda and he asked that the presentation show that the RSM, 2 x 2 model, 8x 8 model, etc. can work to make sure that in a year and half that the tools are in place and being used from the toolbox to make sure it will work. Who owns Florida Bay? He thinks the bottom of Florida Bay never got transferred to Everglades National Park. General discussion held among Mr. Harvey, Mr. Rudnick, Mr. Duke and Mr. Smith.

Announcement:

Rick Smith said the January 19, 2006 WRAC Stormwater Management Issues Workshop is cancelled and will be rescheduled. January 23, 2006 will be a meeting on Acme Basin B at the Wellington Community Center in Wellington, Florida. The meeting scheduled on January 25, 2006 will be moved to a new location. Other updates will be sent via e-mail.

He asked if the WRAC members are interested in field trips and locations of meetings throughout the year.

Adjournment at 4:00 p.m.

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Michael Collins, Chair  
Water Resources Advisory Commission

Recorded By:

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Paula Moree  
Staff Business Operations Analyst  
Governing Board and Executive Services  
SFWMD